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Approved For Release 2004/09/23 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000700070013-0
DCI/SAVA

SECRET

16 June 72

ABLE SECRETARY AT DISSEMINATION

☐ INDEX

☐ NO INDEX

☐ RETURN TO

BRANCH

☐ FILE RID

PER 4/3 TL/6/10 C

☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.

25X1

FILE. VR.

DCI 11/01, 11/02, C/SAVA

(classification)

(date and time filed)

(letter)

(reference number)

SECRET

CITE DIRECTOR

273573

SAIGON

RYBAT

1. SECRETARY LAIRD IS DISPATCHING COLONEL DAVID FARNHAM AND COLONEL DONALD S. MARSHALL ON A SURVEY TRIP TO VIETNAM TO ASSESS THE SITUATION ON HIS BEHALF AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO HIM UPON THEIR RETURN. BOTH COLONELS ARE PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE. WORD OF THEIR MISSION HAS BEEN RELAYED IN MILITARY CHANNELS BY A MESSAGE SENT EXPLICITLY ON SECRETARY LAIRD'S BEHALF BY ADMIRAL MOORER TO ADMIRAL MCCAIN AND GENERAL ABRAMS. THE TWO COLONELS WILL ARRIVE ON OR ABOUT 20 JUNE. THEIR CHARTER IS QUITE BROAD AND ENCOMPASSES THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE PLUS A VARIETY OF MATTERS RELATED TO THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION, ARVN LEADERSHIP AND THE STATUS OF THE VCI.

2. BOTH COLONELS ARE BRIGHT, PERCEPTIVE, HAVE LONG, FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAMESE MATTERS AND (FORTUNATELY) ARE

COORDINATING OFFICER

RELEASING OFFICER

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ADMINISTRATING OFFICER

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MESSAGE FORM
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TO:
FROM:
SUBJECT:

ABLE SECRETARIAT DISEMINATION

☐ INDEX☐ NO INDEX☐ RETURN TO _____ BRANCH☐ FILE RID

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INFO

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(pics)

SECRET

CITE DIRECTOR 279573

PAGE TWO

PLEASANT AND LOW KEY. THEY WILL DO THEIR ASSIGNED JOB WITH THOROUGH, QUIET EFFICIENCY BUT NEITHER IS DOGMATIC OR MAKES A FETISH OF COMING ON STRONG. BOTH PROFESS A HIGH REGARD FOR

25X1 [] AND FARNHAM HAS WORKED FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN CLOSE,
25X1 CONGENIAL COOPERATION WITH []

3. THE TWO COLONELS PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO HEADQUARTERS. ON 14 JUNE TO EXPLAIN THEIR MISSION AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH OUR INDOCHINA BRETHREN. THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN YOUR NAME AND WILL DOUBTLESS CONTACT YOU SOON AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL. THEY WILL ALSO WANT TO CONTACT AND EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH YOUR BASE CHIEFS AS THEY WANDER ABOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE. WE SUGGESTED THAT ANY CONTACT WITH STATION OFFICERS BE ARRANGED AND HANDLED THROUGH YOU. THEY OF COURSE DO NOT EXPECT AND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN ANY
25X1 DETAILED INFORMATION ON [] OPERATIONS.

4. PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY STATION CONTACTS WITH THESE TWO AND ATMOSPHERICS DERIVING FROM THEREFROM. MACV MAY

COORDINATING OFFICERS

RELEASING OFFICER

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassificationAUTHENTICATING
OFFICER

SECRET

| FOR INITIALS - SLEN BY | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 | 5 |
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| 3 | 7 |
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 FROM:
 TO:
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 DATE:

ABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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SECRET

CITE DIRECTOR 279573

PAGE THREE

UNDERSTANDABLY VIEW THEIR IMPENDING ARRIVAL WITH A JAUNDICED EYE AND ENVISAGE THEM AS A SORT OF MOOSE-LOWENSTEIN DUO IN UNIFORM. FROM OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THEM, PARTICULARLY COLONEL FARNHAM, THIS IS DECIDEDLY NOT THE CASE. THEY ARE, INSTEAD, SERIOUS, WELL-INFORMED OFFICERS WITH NO PARTICULAR AXE TO GRIND WHO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SURVEY THE SCENE AND RENDER AN HONEST REPORT. THIS THEY WILL ENDEAVOR TO DO. SINCE THEIR FINDINGS WILL PROBABLY CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT WITH THE SECRETARY, IT BEHOOVES US ALL TO HELP THEM DO THE BEST JOB POSSIBLE.

END OF MESSAGE

25X1

25X1

25X1

 George A. Carver, Jr.
 DCI/SAVA

RELEASING OFFICER

SECRET

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER